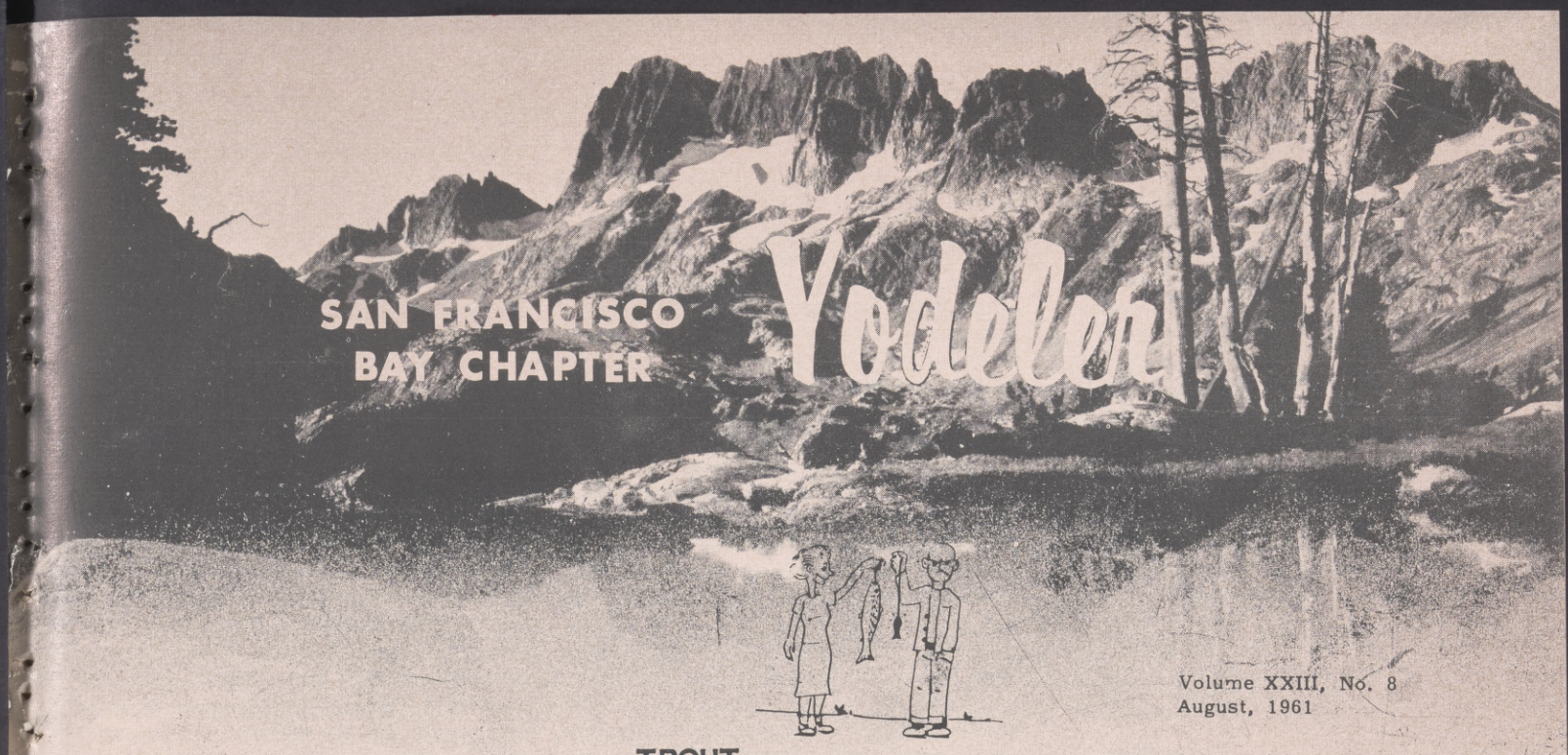

Volume XXIII, No. 8
August, 1961

NEW YELLOWSTONE HEARING

Sierra Club Editor Bruce Kilgore has just returned from Salt Lake City and has given us some details and personal impressions of the hearing, July 17th, on the revised regulations the National Park Service is proposing for regulation of power boating on Yellowstone Lake. Bruce represented both the Sierra Club and the F.W.O.C. at the hearing.

The history of the controversy can be summarized: the Park Service has allowed power boats to operate on Yellowstone Lake within the National Park (in fact it is now building a fine new marina for them): the power boats grew in noise and numbers until a resort type of development was firmly planted within the Park: the National Park Service then tried to control the disturbance and damage to wildlife by closing the southern arms of the lake to motorboats. There were loud protests from both private and commercial boat owners which forced a hearing, last year, at which the Park service was well supported. Power boat clubs and commercial interests have continued their pressure and recently the regulations were "revised", reducing the area closed to motors by two thirds and permitting boats to travel up the southern arms provided they do not exceed 5 m.p.h. and stay well off shore. This time the National Parks Association protested, hence the new hearing, conducted by Frank Barry, solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

Bruce Kilgore reports that Mr. Barry conducted the hearing in a very fair and impartial manner. He was concerned only with facts, particularly the steps the Park Service would take to enforce the new regulations. Would radar installations be used or would patrol boats be needed? The Coast Guard is to be consulted on their ex-

TROUT
A BREACH OF DISCIPLINE

We were high in Humphreys Basin near Bishop during the first four days of July, fishing for Golden Trout in Tomahawk L ake. I had already caught a beauty—about 12 1/2 inches long. Suddenly I was horrified to see my wife land a larger one—horrified because as a condition of her fishing it was stipulated that I was to catch the first fish, I was to catch the most fish, and I was to catch the largest fish.

I had caught the first fish, but at this point I had caught neither the most fish nor the largest fish. So what do we do with hers? Throw it back? It was much too beautiful for that, and besides it offered the possibility of a tasty breakfast. Moreover, it would be unsportsmanlike to concede so quickly while there was still a chance to catch one larger than hers.

But fishing wasn't so good that day, I did manage to catch a small one, and thus finished the day with more fish than did Ola. But I had failed to catch one larger than hers.

Naturally, as a male, I was upset by this demonstration of feminine superiority. Ola thought she could appease my offended masculine pride with some "sweet talk" and with an offer to share with me her beautiful large Golden Trout. But we cannot let such a breach of discipline pass by with impunity.

For this disregard of our agreement, and for her apparent unconcern about masculine superiority, Ola was duly punished by denial of the opportunity to fish for a period of four days, ending with the following Saturday when we would again be in the mountains. Perhaps she will now remember that on our fishing trips, she must not catch the first fish, she must not catch the most fish, and she must not catch the largest fish.

Ike Eikrem

RIVER TOURING NOTES

Roger Paris took first place for men's kayak singles in the maiden venture of the River Touring Section into big-time competition in June. His wife Jackie took first place in the women's slalom.

The event, called the Pacific Invitational Slalom and listed by the American Whitewater Affiliation and the American Canoe Association, was held on a stretch of the North Fork, Feather River, which theSection has only just begun to run. The P.G. &E.

The R.T.S. boasted that it was "the hardest slalom course ever set in the U.S." and justified that statement. Gates were hung above high, pulsing haystacks that would have been hard to run all by themselves. Other problems had been composed by Roger, the course-setter, in pools where current jets hissed with malice and eddies writhed back upstream almost as fast.

The secretary of the American Whitewater Affiliation, Dave Morrissey, drove from Denver to join the fun, and took second in the men's kayak event. He has since written in "American White Water" that the course and adjacent campground were far superior to any course he has seen, and deserved consideration for a National Championship in a future year.

Glenn Gaumer was third in the men's singles. Mary Ann Danielson took second in the women's, Elsa Bailey third place.

There were numerous tipovers, and a volunteer rescue service supervised by Bob Lewis was challenged by the speed at which the struggling paddlers were swept downstream. So efficient were the lifeguards that a Forest Service rescue truck, after standing by discreetly at first, withdrew in the apparent conviction that the Club could take care of its own.

Members from he Bay Chapter, abetted

Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
Peter Whitney, Editor

Ted Allemann Jim Watters
Cicely Christy Frances Whitney

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Editorial Work Night: August 21

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perience in this type of regulation, costs of enforcement and observance of speed limits. It should be noted that one powerful boat, defying regulations, could cause a wave which would destroy wildlife breeding along the shoreline.

Witnesses for the most part were favorable to the Sierra Club point of view, favoring the original regulation. Some local groups, including a troop of Scouts in that area, came out boldly in defense of wilderness without power boats. Only two groups of motorboat enthusiasts appeared as formal witnesses. One group stated frankly that they hoped Yellowstone Lake would set a precedent to persuade the National Park Service to open Shoshone Lake, also within National Park boundaries. The Park Service needs friends to support its efforts to minimize the results of its own mistake in allowing power boats to be used within Yellowstone National Park. The record is still open for written expression of personal views and experience, and any statements can be mailed to Mr. Frank Barry, Solicitor, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., before August 31st. C.M.C.

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MT. DIABLO STATE PARK: A PICTURE OF POVERTY

Chances of enlarging Mt. Diablo State Park are slim, according to a report just released by the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council. Representatives of the Council and the Sierra Club met in Sacramento with Charles DeTurk, Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, and James Warren, chief of the Division's Planning Section. Assemblymen Jerome R. Waldie and John T. Knox were present and urged assistance for the Park.

The Council's report makes it completely clear that, as far as the Division is concerned, Mt. Diablo State Park will remain in its present orphan status, with no appropriations and no plans for expansion. Mr. DeTurk reminded the Assemblymen that they had consented, a few years ago, to diversion of $200,000 in State Park funds from Mt. Diablo to Frank's Tract (a waterside park on the San Joaquin river). He stated clearly that the Division was spending so heavily in Southern California that he would oppose any appropriation of money for Mt. Diablo for the next two years. The only remedy suggested by Mr. DeTurk was the proposed bond issue for State Parks and recreation. In view of the usual public reaction to bond issues this seems a slender hope.

The loss of North Peak, which could probably have been bought for a very low price, the lack of money to buy even the small, cheap portions of Federal land close to the Park, the absence of any detailed plan of acquisition—all show that if Mt. Diablo State Park is to get the attention it deserves, Contra Costa and Bay area people will have to work vigorously themselves. The Division officials did not even know the exact status of the considerable areas of State-owned lands immediately around the Park, or of developments planned for adjacent private holdings which everyone agrees should be in the Park.

The Division does have plans to build a museum on the main peak. It will cost $450,000 (twice the sum diverted from Diablo to Franks Tract), and is one of six museums planned for the State. All conservation members attending the meeting voiced serious doubts as to the wisdom of starting the usual chain reaction—more buildings, more people, more cars, less room to move freely, in a Park already strangling for want of space. C.M.C.

LETTERS

To the industrious individual who had to search for my address when I ordered wilderness cards:

I would like to suggest that a soundproof room be established within which negligent members (such as myself) would be put for a certain period of time. They would be required to listen to the following songs as reminders to write their congressmen or stop complaining and start working, etc. You might call it a Conservationist's Chamber of Horrors.

Come Lobby Along With Me
Sounds of Logging
Up the Muddy River
Future Freeway Foxtrot
Building Dams Together
Bulldozer Blues
Lilting Litterbug
Pollution Polka
My Dreamhouse on Point Reyes
Sunny Subdivisions
Clearcutting the Cascades Calypso

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely yours,
Suzanne Twight

by Mother Lode and Boy Scout volunteers, provided a remarkably devoted and able corps of gate watchers, judges and scorers. There is a lot of work in setting up the fifteen gates that are the minimum in a slalom under the international rules; several sweating laborers led by Maynard Munger, Slalom Chairman, strung the brand-new bamboo poles on the equally new cables in the 24 hours before the race. At the end, they folder the big show with equal efficiency. Credit goes to Johm Bombay and Glenn Gaumer for the preparation of the equipment, now a club asset.

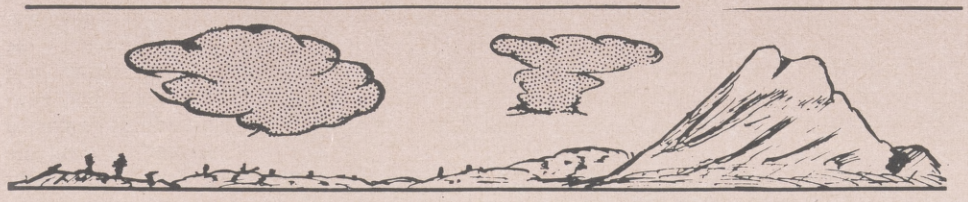
The RTS considers this a pilot project to see whether competition on a full-scale basis can smoothly be carried on by its membership. Competition seems to be essential if the club's good cruising paddlers are to cross the barriers into excellence and eventual mastery; slalom competition also teaches paddlers how to paddle upstream and hold their stations in heavy water—both maneuvers that are invaluable for rescue. Slalom therefore is a safety training device of the utmost importance.

The scores:

Roger Paris	223.
Dave Morrissey	312.5
Glenn Gaumer	358.8
Ted Fostiak	409.2
Jackie Paris	420.4
Monte Rowell	447.5
Maynard Munger	497.2
Larry Larsen	551.2
John Bombay	565.
Ray Cochrane	655.5
Mary Ann Danielson	608.3
Elsa Bailey	693.8
Ernest Svaton	708.2

Numerous Section members have been off to far parts for competition and cruising. Your Editor, with John Bombay, Dick Bachenheimer and Ernie Svaton, joined an American Whitewater Affiliation cruise down the Selway, in an area about which conservation fight is raging. The area almost lived up to its brag—the only demerits being old scars of forest fires and the incongruous presence of several fly-in resorts. The white water was a continuous challenge.

P.W.



THUNDERSTORMS IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

In my climbs in the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere, I have had but few close calls from thunderstorms, as, generally speaking, I have preferred to be on my way elsewhere as soon as I am aware that one is approaching.

I have, however, along with others, had rather dramatic, but always scatheless - thanks to Providence - experiences in electric storms on Sierra peaks.

One of these was on top of the Black Kaweah, the summit of which we reached as Will Colby and his party were leaving. On account of the friability of the rock along the route usually followed, particularly in a couloir which forms a considerable portion of the route, he requested us to allow them three-quarters of a hour to get a safe distance down the mountain.

From the summit I noticed a dark cloud-mass to the southwest. Within a half hour, this was obviously bearing down upon the Black Kaweah. I therefore told my party that, if we did not want to be caught in a storm, we should be on our way down the mountain at once. Scarcely had we started when the cloud-mass swept over the summit of the mountain and we were enveloped in a heavy snowstorm. Presently, there were blinding flashes of lightning and deafening crashes of thunder. After one of the former, in a very disconcerting proximity, as it struck a pinnacle, I seem to remember a halo of sparks about my old army hat. This, however, was doubtless pure hallucination.

Slowly and carefully, we made our way down the mountain. Almost miraculously, none of the friable rock gave way to produce a rock slide. As we drew away from the base of the mountain, the cloud-mass slowly broke away, revealing a white covering from base to summit. Almost anything could have happened on this descent, but, fortunately, nothing did.

Another rather dramatic episode was on the occasion of the first ascent of Thunderbolt Peak. While Jules Eichorn and Glen Dawson were ascending the summit monolith, looking southward from the crest of this north Palisade, I noticed a cloud-mass - or, rather, echelonned masses of clouds - approaching our mountain. Presently, the first cloud-mass enveloped the mountain and snow began to fall heavily. Scarcely had Jules and Glen left the top of the monolith, when there was a flash and a crack as a thunderbolt struck its summit. We rather appropriately, therefore, christened the mountain, Thunderbolt Peak.

Wet snow fell thickly, but thawed quickly, and soon torrents of water began to cascade down the mountainside, sweeping along rocks which went crashing down. Again, almost anything could have happened on this climb, but, fortunately, nothing did.

The above, of course, are very unusual experiences. Generally speaking, in the Sierra Nevada, the climber has sufficient warning of the approach of a storm to be a safe distance down the mountain before it actually strikes. It should be borne in mind, however, that the course followed by summer storm clouds in the Sierra is sometimes rather erratic. One, apparently headed directly toward the mountain on which one happens to be, may suddenly swerve and strike elsewhere. On the contrary, one apparently on the way to another mountain may suddenly swing around and come bearing down upon the peak which the climber happens to be occupying.

It should be remembered, also, that it is difficult to appraise an approaching storm cloud. An apparently threatening storm may prove to be nothing worse than a snow or rain squall, while a deceivingly harmless looking one may turn into an extremely severe electric storm, and the narrow top of a mountain is just about the worst place to experience such a natural phenomenon.

Norman Clyde

WEST POINT HOSTESS SCHEDULE

*Aug. 5-6	Avis Burchard and Helper WE 1-0739	Anytime
Aug. 12-13	Delia Busey Twin Oaks 3-0462	Evenings
*Aug. 19-20	Ann Cole and Herbert Breitbach PRospect 6-4194	Evenings
Aug. 26-27	Irene Meining GRaystone 4-4266	Evenings

* CENTRAL COMMISSARY. Cancellation of reservations must be made by Thursday or party must pay for weekend.

WEST POINT CLUB, Box 278, Route 1, Mill Valley. DUnlap 8-9955.

SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENT

August 5-6: LEISURE KNAPSACKING—PROPOSED MOK ELUMNE WILD AREA. A circle trip with approx. 4 1/2-mile walk each way, largely cross-country. Camp by a lake. Exploratory hike without packs for those who prefer it to loafing, fishing, swimming (?) etc. Bird - tree - flower walk Sunday morning ditto. (Bring binoculars). The scouting trip in June found area still clogged with snow, so it will be partly unscouted. Driving distance from Berkeley, 195 mi. Limit 20 somewhat experienced knapsackers with leisurely instincts. For time and place of meeting, driving directions, and reservations call MURIEL HUNTER

ELECTRICAL STORMS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SIERRA SCENE DURING MID SUMMER. THEY HAVE CAPRICIOUS AND HAIR RAISING MOMENTS, WITNESS THE ILLUSTRATION ABOVE. THIS IS VIRGINIA CASHA CAUGHT NEAR THE SUMMIT OF MT. REINSTEIN A FEW SEASONS AGO. THE WHITE SPECKS ARE SNOW. PHOTO BY DOM JUKES.

YODELER WORK-NIGHT UP COMING

Friends of the Yodeler can do us good service by contributing a few hours on Editorial night in September, Monday the 25th. It's time to send out subscription renewal notices and we will need help to avoid finger cramps.

Volunteers please call Cicely Christy, TH 8-2159, or drop a note to her or to the Yodeler in care of the club office. Refreshments promised.

HELP !!!

The new fall schedule is ready for mailing and all who want to help are invited to do so. There is lots of work for everyone and lots of fun as well. No experience necessary. Juniors and new members are especially welcome — here is a good way to get acquainted.

TIME: Wednesday, August 9th, 7 p.m.
PLACE: Club office

August 19-20: LEISURE KNAPSACKING—CARIBOU PEAK WILD AREA, S.E. of Lassen. A pleasant hike among quiet streams and small lakes. The long drive is made bearable by a late start Saturday, an early return Sunday, and exquisite scenery. Sat. hike: about 600' climb in 6 mi., to camp on a lake. All trail. Sun. cross-country, some trail, climb 200', drop 600' in 4 1/2 mi., with swim at end followed by an early Gourmet dinner at reasonable prices. (Also recommend Sat. breakfast at gourmet spot as a treat of the first order.) Map: Chester 15-min. Quadrangle: USGS P.E. office, 630 Sansome St., S.F., 30¢. Leaders: PHIL and GERDA LYDON. For complete information and reservation (limit 20) call PEGGY KLENZ, transportation coordinator.

FOUND: Lady Macintosh hat — Black Watch plaid — on June 25 hike to Little Carson. Call Ruth Kaufman, MA 1-2783.

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August 26: HUCKLEBERRY HIKE—For details of what to wear, what to bring, and how to get there, call Cicely Christy. TH 8-2159. If you can offer rides from East Bay or San Francisco, please let the leaders know.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AUGUST 26-27: NOBLE CANYON. Leader, Loyal Mealer, SP 6-2444, P.O. Box 202, Walnut Grove. Coordinator: Clinton Scarich, IVanhoe 3-6122, 4083 Cresta Way, Sacramento, 25. Meet at summit of Ebbetts Pass (State Rt. #4) at 10:30 a.m. Caravan 3 miles toward Silver Creek Campground and Sierra Club arrow. Easy 3 mile knapsack trip to the head of Noble Canyon.

September 2-3-4: LEISURE KNAPSACKING — LEWIS LAKES, SONORA PASS AREA. 7-mile hike to campsite on Summit Creek. Short cross-country hike on layover day to the several Lewis Lakes. High, open granite terrain with views of Mts. Conness, Lyell, etc. Limit: 20. Call leaders ERIC and CECILE CHRISTIAN (E. Bay) or San Francisco coordinator ETHEL UNSELT for reservation, information, driving directions, rides.

SOME EXCHANGE TRIPS

The following events are selected from the outing schedules of other chapters, with the thought that you might like to adventure farther afield on your weekend walks and field trips. For further information get in touch with the leader on the chapter sponsoring the outing (if written reply is requested, include a self-addressed STAMPED envelope), or phone me (TH 1-2442).

LOMA PRIETA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, HIKE IN PORTOLA STATE PARK. Leaders: Fred Bettes, DAvenport 4-2720, and Bob Miller, DA 6-4892. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at Ranger Station for hike, or come earlier and bring lunch. 5 mile hike. Bring canteen.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, HIKE IN BUTANO PARK. Leaders: Thomas and Diana Jones, Box 51, La Honda. Meet at Post Office in La Honda at 9:00 a.m. Cool, 9 mile hike into lesser known, western part of park. Bring lunch and canteen.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE: Squaw Valley Chalet. Delightful, comfortable, charming! One year minimum term. Reasonable rate. Write Joe Brower, Birmensdorferstr. 16, Uitikon a/A, Zurich, Switzerland.

WANTED: Car camping companion for three week trip to Canada and back. Mid August. OL 2 8235.

MOUNTAINEERING NOTES

WHY WE SCREEN

You have probably noticed that Mountaineering Section trips require "leader permission". Screening is done to insure that persons desiring to go on a trip have both the physical condition and technical competence that will be needed. We feel that our requirements are reasonable. On a training trip, participants must be in condition to backpack to a base camp, engage in training activities, and still have a reserve of strength for emergencies. Standards of technical proficiency for training trips are minimal. Participation in local practice climbs—for knowledge of rope management and familiarity with safe climbing techniques—is usually sufficient. On non-training trips, sound physical condition and well-developed skills are mandatory. Screening is for your protection—and for ours.

REPORTS

Starr King Climb (May 13-14, 1961). Of ten participants, three were able to reach the summit. Snow-covered rock on the normally Class 4 route selected made it a Class 5 climb and a slow one. Everyone learned that climbing conditions can change without warning: a climb which is fairly easy could, under some conditions, become severely difficult. An additional lesson was learned by some—it is essential to carry extra warm clothing no matter how fine the weather looks when starting out!

Snow Climbing Training—Crystal Range (June 10-11, 1961). This was one of the few Sierra Club trips which hit the trail five minutes early both days! Most of the eighteen persons who attended learned self-arrests, rope management on snow, ice-axe belays and methods of climbing up and down snow slopes. It was resolved that gaiters or some other means of keeping snow out of boots must be used. A problem that needs to be solved is how to keep the seat of the pants dry when using sitting glissades in wet snow. —Mountaineering Section

WATER SKI CARNIVAL

Once again on August 12-13 the Bay Area Ski Federation is presenting the Annual Summer Water Ski Carnival and Progressive Dinner. This year there is something new—an interclub volley ball tourney.

Everyone who has a boat is encouraged to bring it to Donner Lake Lodge at the west end of Donner Lake, Saturday morning. The gas and oil will be provided, as will a cash dividend for bringing the boat. The money will come from the sales of tickets—three rides for a dollar.

Owners should be reminded that motors tuned to sea level will not operate properly at 6000 feet elevation.

The Progressive Dinner starts out with cocktails (3 for $1) at Peninsula and Viking, soup at Oakland, Salad at the Alpineers, Entree at Clair Tappaan, dessert and dancing at Nature Friends.

The Volleyball tourney will probably be held at Donner Lake Lodge Saturday and/or Sunday.

In past years the carnival has been greatly enjoyed—everyone is invited, so make your reservation at CTL, Norden, Calif., now by postcard, stating that you will be with the BASF group.

See you there!

Roberta C. Huber
Box 413
Tahoe City, California
916-JU 3-4351

CLIMBING MOUNT WHITNEY

An illustrated guide to Mount Whitney by Walt Wheelock and Tom Condon. Photos, maps, charts. Covers history, geology, plant and animal life, trail and rockclimbing routes. $1.00 pp. La Siesta Press, Box 406, Glendale, California.

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